

Subject: Concerning the Second Divisional Group of
Rocket Launchers of the Second Infantry
Division

I. Report on Order of Battle:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Command</u>	<u>Commander</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Quarters</u>	<u>Location</u>
2d Inf.Div.	?	Brig.Gen. Karel VALENTA			Susice
23d Inf.Reg.	2d Inf.Div.		P.S. 27	New barracks	Janovice/Nad Ulavou
Inf.Reg.	"				Vimperk
Inf.Reg.	"				Klatovy
10th Art.Reg.	"				Klatovy
Art.Reg.	"				Prachatice
Div.Group II of Rocket Launchers 	"	Capt SLOVACEK	P.S. 13	Former monastery	Kasperske Hory
AA Div. Group	"				Horazdovice
Antitank Div. Group	"				Tynec
Motor Transport Div. Group					Rejsten
Signal Div. Group or Co.	"				Susice
Reconnaissance Div. Group or Squadron	"				Kasperske Hory
Div. Motor Repair Shop	"				Susice
VVT Glaserwald Training camp of 2d Inf. Div.	"				Glaserwald in massif of Sumava

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<u>Unit</u>	<u>Command</u>	<u>Location</u>
Regional Hosp. No. III	1st Mil.Reg.	Plzen
Regional Hosp. No. III	1st Mil. Reg.	Ceske Budejovice
Central Mil. Hosp.	M.N.O.	Prague
7th Brigade Aid Station	Ministry of Interior	Susice
Training Battalion	7th Brig.	Susice
7th Brigade Aid Station	Aid Station	

II. Composition and Deployment of the Second Group of Rocket Launchers

A) Subordination

The Second Divisional Group of Rocket Launchers (II Raketometry Oddil), stationed at Kasperske Hory, is subordinate to the Divisional Artillery Command of the Second Division of Motorized Infantry (2. Pesi Motorisovana Divise), whose headquarters are at Susice (Bohemia).

The Second Division of Motorized Infantry is under the command of Major General Karel VALENTA.

During the divisional maneuvers in the summer of 1953 at the VVT training camp of Glaserwald, we identified the following units of this Motorized Infantry

Division:

- 23d Infantry Regt., stationed at Janovice/Nad Uhlovou
- one Infantry Regt., stationed at Klatovy
- one Infantry Regt., stationed at Vimperk
- 10th Artillery Regt., stationed at Klatovy
- one Artillery Regt., stationed at Prachatice
- Antitank Divisional Group, stationed at Tynec
- Antiaircraft Divisional Group, stationed at Horazdovice
- Transport Group, stationed at Rejstejn
- Divisional Reconnaissance Group or Company, stationed at Kasperske Hory
- Divisional Signal Battalion or Company, stationed at Susice
- Divisional Motor Repair Shop, stationed at Susice

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- The VVT Glaserwalde, training camp of the Second Motorized Infantry Division, is in the Sumava Massif.

B) Composition of the Second Divisional Group of Rocket Launchers:

The Group of Rocket Launchers, in addition to its General Staff and Command Section, is composed of three batteries, each having two guns (Raketomny), making a total of 6 rocket launchers for the Group.

1) The Group Command includes a [REDACTED] deputy political officer

2) The Group General Staff, whose personnel are controlled by the "Command Section", is essentially comprised as follows:

- the Chief of Staff
- one gunnery-observer officer
- one signal officer
- one supply officer
- one disbursing officer
- one officer in charge of athletics
- one officer in charge of the Command Section

3) The Command Section consists of the following personnel:

- one officer in command of the section
- one deputy officer or noncommissioned officer
- the chief of the motor pool (noncommissioned officer or cadet)
- one gunsmith, a noncommissioned officer
- 3 telephone operators
- 3 radio operators
- 3 topographer-observers
- 3 observers
- 3 computers
- 3 mechanics
- 3 secretaries
- 3 cooks
- one doctor

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The materiel of the Command Section is comprised of:

- one US Jeep
- 2 Praga RN trucks
- 2 motorcycles, Jawa - 250 cm³
- 2 radios, transmitters-receivers, type A7 B (Tesla)
- one telephone central
- 4 telephones

4) The Battery is subdivided as follows: a General Staff and two half sections (Poloceta), each ^{having} ~~an~~ an artillery platoon of rocket launchers

- the General Staff of the Battery consists of:
 - the Battery commander
 - his technical deputy
 - his political deputy
 - one radio operator
 - 5 telephone operators
 - 2 computers
 - 2 topographer-observers
 - 4 chauffeurs

The General Staff of the Battery has a light vehicle for liaison (Jeep) and 3 Praga RN trucks. Its radio equipment consists of one A7 B transmitter-receiver and 3 telephone centrals, one of which is a two-way set.

The half-section, or artillery platoon of rocket launchers, is subdivided as follows:

- a chief of the demi-section (Poloceta) or gun chief: officer
- one gunner (noncommissioned officer)
- one loader
- 2 ammunition servers
- one chauffeur

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The equipment of the half-section is as follows:

- one Studebaker truck with rocket launcher
- the collective armament consists of one bazooka and one light machine gun

The subdivision of the 3 batteries is identical; refer to the attached Table I, which gives the plan of organization of the Second Group of Rocket Launchers.

5) School for Noncommissioned Officers:

The Group also has a school for noncommissioned officers. In 1953, there was a total of 35 students at this school. During that period, the school was directed by Lt VESELY, commander of the Third Battery. The school was attached administratively to the latter unit.

III Numerical Strength

In September 1953, the strength of the Second Divisional Group of Rocket Launchers was as follows:

18 officers

2 regular noncommissioned officers

25 draftee noncommissioned officers

109 men

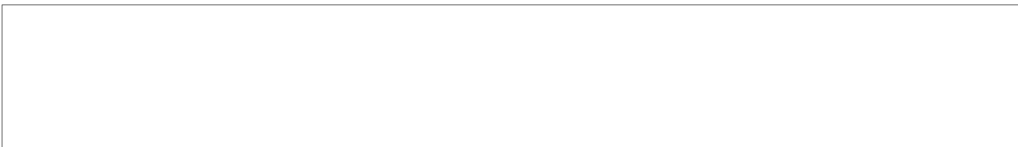
making a total of: 154 officers, noncoms, and men.

For the most part, the men belong to the 1930 and 1931 contingents. Those who began their army service on 1 November 1952 were returned to their homes on 23 October 1954.

IV Officers

VALENTA Karel; Brig. Gen.; chief of 2d Motorized Inf. Div. at Susice.

SLOVACEK; Captain; commander of 2d Group of Rocket Launchers; Czech;



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V Armament and Equipment

1) Rocket launchers of Czechoslovakian origin:

Refer to attached sketches 3 and 4, with their accompanying legends.

The 2d Divisional Group was equipped with 6 of these rocket launchers. The equipment was of Czechoslovakian manufacture (Skoda?); it was sent to the units at the beginning of 1952.

The Czechoslovakian rocket launcher is mounted on a truck of the Studebaker-Canada type, which has been transformed and adapted for the transport of this materiel.

This rocket launcher resembles the Soviet equipment indicated on the silhouette card as probably being the BM 14, having a caliber of about 140 millimeters. But there is one difference: the gun crew, during the transport of the gun, is seated with their backs to the cab of the ~~driver~~ driver, facing the tubes in the following order, from left to right: the gunner, the loader, two ammunition servers ~~ammunition~~. On the other hand, the leader of the gun crew is in the cab, beside the driver.

Characteristics: This rocket launcher has a total of 16 tubes, steel-plated, arranged in two rows of 8 each.

The characteristics of the tube are as follows: caliber, 120-130 millimeter; length, 1.10 meters; thickness of steel plating, 3 millimeters.

Characteristics of the rocket: caliber, 120-130 millimeter; length, 70-80 centimeters; weight, unknown.

Firing conditions: range of elevation: 15° to 50°

maximum range: 12,000 meters

effective range: up to 8,000 meters

Either single fire or volley fire is possible; the firing is done electrically; the loading of the 16 tubes requires about 3 minutes.

During the firing, the truck is kept motionless, with the help of its brakes.

The rocket launcher can also fire from a fixed position. In this case, the truck is secured in a special trench and the ammunition is brought by other trucks.

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Ammunition Supply:

The truck on which the rocket launcher is mounted carries, on its lower part, a [REDACTED] rocket box containing [REDACTED] 32 chambers. From each side of the truck, it is possible to load 16 rockets, or a total of 32 rockets.

The unit of fire of the rocket launcher on active service is 48 rockets (16 rockets in the tubes, plus 32 rockets in the box).

The maximum speed of the vehicle, with its maximum load, is 35 kilometers per hour. The maximum speed of the truck, without munitions, is 70 kilometers per hour.

2) Light Armament:

The men are individually equipped with Model 98 N rifles or with Czechoslovakian submachine guns, type CZ 24, with caliber of 7.62 millimeters.

In addition, the group has:

- a) 8 Tarasnice (Czechoslovakian bazooka): one per gun, plus 2 for the Command Post of the Group.
- b) 10 light machine guns, type CZ 26, with caliber of 7.92 millimeters.

3) Vehicles:

The equipment of the group is as follows:

- 6 rocket-launcher trucks (from memory)
- 3 trucks, type Ford-Canada, for transport of personnel
- 10 trucks, Praga RN) transport of materiel and munitions
- 2 trucks, Praga A, 1.5 ton)
- 4 vehicles, light, for liaison (Jeep)
- 2 motorcycles, Jawa 250 cubic centimeters

4) Signal Devices:

Equipment of the Group:

- 5 transmitters-receivers, type A7 B, of Czechoslovakian manufacture (Tesla). This is a copy of the Soviet A7 A

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transmitter-receiver.

Range: about 25 kilometers (Phonie-Graphie)

Weight: 10 kilograms - transportable by 2 men

Length of antenna: 3 meters

Wooden case, 50 x 40 x 25 centimeters

10 telephone ~~sets~~ of Czechoslovakian ~~make~~

1 telephone central, 10-directional, "Tesla"

VI Instruction and Maneuvers

A group of 70 young recruits began army service on 1 November 1952.

The basic military training (Prijimac) ended at the beginning of December 1952.

One of these young recruits was then sent as radio operator to the "Command Section" of the Group. There he had radio instruction while continuing his infantry training. Only a rudimentary instruction was given him concerning the rocket launchers.

The radio course consisted mainly of the study and use of the radio and telephone equipment ^{used by} the rocket-launcher Group.

A diagram of the radio and telephone contacts of the Group is presented in the attached Table II.

- The Command Post of the Group has radio contact with the Divisional Artillery and the Battery Command Posts. Occasionally, these contacts are doubled by the use of ² telephone.

- The Battery Commands have telephone contact with their chiefs of "Poloceta" (half-section, gun).

The Group carried out divisional maneuvers at the VVT of Glaserwald in the summer of 1953.

Up to the end of October 1954, the 2d Group of Rocket Launchers had not undergone any fundamental change. Only the old individual armament had been replaced: the ~~98~~ 98 N rifle by the Modele 52 rifle having a caliber of 7.62 millimeters; the Group had also been equipped with new light machine guns having a caliber of 7.62 millimeters.

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VII Morale

The morale of the men was very low because of the very severe discipline and the almost complete lack of free time and furloughs. The latter were not granted except as special rewards.

Miscellaneous

Regional Military Hospital No. III at Plzen (Treti Okruhova Nemocnice), subordinate to the 1st Military Region.

This hospital consists of:

- one surgery section, directed by medical officer, Col POPILKA
- one ophthalmology section
- one dermatology section
- one general medicine section

In 1954 the capacity of this hospital was about 600 beds. Two new buildings, each having four floors, were built there in 1953. The cellars, now used for the storage of pharmaceuticals, were built as shelters for the operation^{ng} rooms in wartime.

The Plzen hospital is one of the most modern in Czechoslovakia. Its location was given as objective No. 31 on the plan attached to report No. 113.

Regional Hospital No. IV (Ctvrta Okruhova Nemocnice) at Ceske Budejovice, dependent upon the 1st Military Region.

Central Military Hospital (Ustredni Vojenska Nemocnice) directly dependent upon the Health Department of the MNO.

Remarks:

It may be that the very small amount of equipment corresponds to that used in peace time or at the beginning of the organization of these units. An increase in the number of rocket launchers might be anticipated in case of mobilization.

In fact, each battery is now in a section (Ceta) of 2 guns, each gun forms a half-section (Poloceta).

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4. Mobile unit attached to the electrical firing device:

At the moment of firing, the extremity of this unit strikes the required opening in the rocket (firing pin?).

The rocket launcher has a total of 16 of these mobile units (one for each tube).

5. Sighting apparatus.

6. Box containing the electrical firing device.

7. Base of rocket launcher containing the sighting device.

8. Cases for rockets:

For a total of 32 rockets—16 rockets on each side of the truck.

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